AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 5, and replace the paragraph as follows:

An encryption apparatus comprises first and second N-round DES devices and first and second input circuits. The first N-round DES device cryptographically converts a digital input data block into a first digital output data block nonlinearly, based on an input of a set of encryption keys. The first input ~~means~~ device receives and inverts the digital input data block. The second input ~~means~~ device receives and inverts the set of encryption keys. The second N-round DES device cryptographically converts the inverted digital input data block into a second digital output data block nonlinearly, based on an input of the inverted encryption keys. The first and second N-round DES devices perform a cryptographic conversion process at the same.